(c) The particulars of the persons apprehended so far are:

(i) Raj Kumar Mehta, Indian
S/o Shri Balwant Rai Mehta,
R/o 70, Harsh Vihar,
Pitam Pura, New Delhi. Aged-57 yrs.

(ii) Sumar Khan, Indian
S/o Habib Khan,
R/o Village-Kunjlari, Distt. Jaiselmer, Rajasthan. Aged-23 yrs.

(iii) Ravinder Mehta, Indian
S/o Shri Chaman Lal Mehta
R/o A-85, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-52. Aged-23yrs.

(iv) One Sher Khan, who was apprehended at Jaiselmer in this case managd to escape while being escorted to Jodhpur.

Pending Refund Cases of Income-tax

1445. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued instructions to all its field officers to clear all pending refund cases within 10 days of the completion of income tax assessment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CBDT has also asked its officer to grant an appeal to a taxpayer within 15 days;

(c) what are the details; of the instructions issued by CBDT in his regard:

(d) the number of refund and appeal cases pending with the income-tax assessing/appellant authorities; and

(e) by when CBDT propose to dispose of pending refund cases/appeals filed upto 30th September, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions to the effect that all refunds should be issued within 10 days of completion of assessments and appeal-effects should be given within 15 days of receipt of the appellate orders;

(d) as on 31-3-93, 8285 direct refund claims u/s 237 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 were pending with the assessing officers. Also about 2.73 lakhs appeals were pending with Deputy Commissioners (Appeals) and Commissioners of Income-tax (Appeals) as on 31-5-93 and about 2.38 lakhs appeals with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31-3-93;

(e) the refunds arising as a result of assessments are expected to be issued within 10 days of completion of assessments and the assessments as such are to be completed.

Pending Insurance Claims of Kashmiri

1446. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that insurance claims worth 32 crores including those made by the Kashmiri pandit migrants relating to loss of private property due to extreme desperadations are pending with insurance companies of GIC at Srinagar;

(b) if so, what is the number and details of claims filed with each Insurance Company up to 30th November, 1993 by Kashmiri pandit migrants and other Jammu and Kashmir residents; and what is the amount involved;

(c) how many cases of Kashmiri pandit migrants and others, separately have been settled by each insurance company at Srinagar during the years 1991, 1992 and so far in 1993;

(d) what guidelines have been issued in this regard;

(e) what steps have so far been taken to expedite the settlement of the insurance claims; and

(f) whether Government have received any complaints about alleged corruption in the settlement of claims if so, what are the details and what action has been taken in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite information is as under :—

(Amount in Crores of Rupees)

Name of the Company	Kashmir Migrants		Others	
	No. of claims	Amount	No. of claims	Amount
National	1786	13.54	6069	6.77
New India	1745	10.92	2811	13.49
Oriental	1600	7.03	1834	6.43
United India	575	1.48	10351	13.52

(c) The requisite information is as under :—

Name of the Company	No. of claims of Kashmir Migrants settled during			Mo. of claims of others settled during		
	1991	1992	1993	1991	1992	1993
National	306	231	759	1156	697	2829
New India	223	72	118	203	813	610
Oriental	639	533	98	426	279	64
United India	50	68	82	2860	2430	2589

(d) and (e) The requisite information is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(f) Allegations regarding certain corrupt practices adopted by some Officers of Insurance Companies at Srinagar have been received. Vigilance Deptts. of the Insurance Companies have been advised to look into the allegations. As a precautionary measure, two Officers against whom complaints were made, were transferred.

Statement

In order to facilitate the expeditious settlement of claims, the following guidelines have been issued by the General Insurance Corporation of India/(GIC) to the four subsidiary Insurance companies :—

(1) In the absence of the current policy documents, the claim may be finalised on the basis of the photo copy of the last year's policy or the current year's premium receipt which will be an evidence to establish that an insurance policy exists for the current year.

(2) In regard to claims below Rs. 20,000, estimates/repair bills may not be insisted upon and subjective assessment may be made by the Surveyor.

(3) Where the circumstantial evidence is available, the Police Report and the Fire Brigade Report may not be insisted upon.

(4) Where the exact quantum of the loss can not be assessed immediately, the surveyor may recommend an 'On-Account' payment.

(5) Where Account Books etc. have been burnt, the surveyors can rely on secondary evidence, such as, bank records, income tax records, etc.

(6) Where authentic ownership papers are not available, surveyors may use Municipal tax bills, electricity bills etc. to establish the ownership of the insured property.

(7) In cases where the exact date of loss is not known, the surveyor can recommend the claim if there is no break in insurance policy.

Besides the above, the following steps have also been taken by the subsidiary companies of the G.I.C. to expedite settlement of claims :—

(1) Due to disturbed conditions in the Valley, the claim of migrants are being processed at Jammu and regular meetings held with the claimants and the surveyors.

(2) Each subsidiary has set up a Special Cell to monitor the day-to-day progress of settlement of these claims.

(3) Efforts are being made to have a joint operation of all the four companies in Srinagar so as to consolidate the efforts and to look after the insurance problems in the Valley in a unified manner.

(4) Various problems faced by the surveyors in assessment of loss have also been clarified and necessary guidelines issued to them.

1447. [*Transferred to 2nd December*, 1993.]

Working of Stock Holding Corp. of India

1448. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that officials of the Stock Holding Corporation of India have used shares worth crores in their custody to illicitly raise funds and play in the market ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fraud exceeds Rs. 2500 crores ;

(c) what action has been initiated ;

(d) who are the directors in this Corporation ; and

(e) whether they can be charged for dereliction of duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRA AHMED) : (a) and (b) Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited has informed that it is not true that officials of the Corporation used shares in this manner and that a fraud took place in the Corporation.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

(d) and (e) Stock Holding Corporation India Ltd. is a non-Government company, with periodic changes in the composition of its Board of Directors. In view of the reply to (a) and (b) above, they cannot be charged for dereliction of duty.